

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a plurality of filaments for holding an object;

a hollow section, through which a first end of each of the plurality of filaments passes, the hollow section including a fixing section for fixing a second end of each of the plurality of filaments;

wherein the hollow section comprises a first member through which one end of each of the plurality of filaments passes, the hollow section comprises a second member engaged with the first member, the fixing section includes a plurality of grooves formed on an engagement surface at which the first member and the second member engage, and an elongated direction of the plurality of grooves is slanted with respect to an extending direction of the first member or an elongated direction of the second member.

23-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the instrument for holding an object; and

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the instrument for at least fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument, the fixing member having an accommodation part for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in a predetermined position and direction,

wherein the accommodation part is slanted in respect to the longitudinal direction of the instrument.

32-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object;

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the sheath for fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument;

wherein at least one of the sheath and the fixing member has a groove for accommodating the one end of the at least one filament on its surface, the groove having an elongated shape along the direction of the at least one filament and in which the at least one filament fits, the groove being [[is] provided in a predetermined position and direction for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in the predetermined position and direction regulated by the groove.

37. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 36, wherein an adhesive is applied in the groove for fixing the at least one filament to the instrument.

38. (Currently Amended) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object;

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the sheath for fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument;

wherein at least one of the sheath and the fixing member has a hole for accommodating the one end of the at least one filament, the hole having an elongated shape along the direction of the at least one filament and in which the at least one filament fits, and the groove being ~~[[is]]~~ provided in a predetermined position and direction for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in the predetermined position and direction regulated by the hole.

39. (Previously Presented) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 38, wherein an adhesive is applied in the hole for fixing the at least one filament to the instrument.